

have suffered under the rule of a tyrant. They have watched as their neighbors in Iran increasingly rise up to protest against the tyranny of the Islamic regime. They see the destitution that years of terrorism has brought to the Palestinian people. Democracy is the only way forward—and the people of Iraq know it. We don't have to convince them of it, but we do have to help them implement this dream. That will be the role for reconstruction in the months to come.

If there is a danger that we face in looking at reconstruction policy in Iraq, it comes from holding on to the old belief system that the Middle East just can not handle democracy. Sadly, there are many in various government agencies who strongly cling to this view. We must make sure that those who hand out the funds to rebuild Iraq are on target with the President's vision. We will only get one chance to do this right. We must not revert back to the lobbying of dying regimes in the region. We must stay true to the bold vision that democracy in Iraq is coming.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMM of South Carolina). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, there has been an objection made to the Judiciary Committee meeting today. Thus, as the only way to allow that committee to continue its very important work for the people of the United States of America, I am forced to ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:06 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 3:05 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CRAPO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY S. 151

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 151, the PROTECT Act, and it be considered as follows: There be 2 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form.

I further ask unanimous consent that following that debate time, the Senate

proceed to a vote on the adoption of the conference report, with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. REID. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could ask my friend to yield for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HATCH. Without losing my right to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I want to make sure my friend from Utah understands that we, of course, would have no objection to going to the conference report. Our problem is having the majority leader set a time for completing this legislation. We have a number of people on our side who wish to speak. We would be willing to go to the conference report but with no time constraints. I want to make sure my friend understands that.

Mr. HATCH. Could I ask the distinguished Senator how much time he would need?

Mr. REID. I don't really know how much time. I know the Senator from Massachusetts wishes to speak, and he may want to speak for a little while. I think the best thing to do would be to go to the conference report. We have been basically doing nothing for 3 hours today anyway. I am sure it wouldn't take very long. But I don't have any idea. If I could, through the Chair, inquire of the Senator from Massachusetts, does the Senator from Massachusetts have any estimate as to how long we should be on this important legislation?

Mr. HATCH. I yield without losing my right to the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY. I intend to speak about this for some time, and then at the appropriate time I will make a point of order in terms of the bill.

Mr. HATCH. I am sorry to see the objection on this matter because I believe this is one of the most important bills we will ever enact in the Senate, especially with regard to our children, but with regard to criminal law in general.

CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1584, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1584) to implement effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the Clean Diamond Trade Act. Clean Diamond legislation passed unanimously through the Finance Committee on April 2, by a voice vote. The bill we are

taking up today is nearly identical to the bill that passed the House of Representatives on April 8, 2003, by a vote of 419 to 2. Today, with the passage of this bill, the Senate is taking a step toward bringing our Nation into compliance with our responsibilities as a participating Nation in the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme.

Passage of this legislation is a true bipartisan success and a significant step forward in stopping trade in conflict diamonds. I would like to thank my colleagues for helping to develop the compromise legislation in this act. I would especially like to recognize the hard work of Senators GREGG, DEWINE, DURBIN, BINGAMAN, and FEINGOLD, whose devotion and dedication to stopping trade in conflict diamonds is unsurpassed.

The Clean Diamond Trade Act will implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. This is an international agreement establishing minimal acceptable international standards for national certification schemes relating to cross-border trade in rough diamonds. It represents over 2 years of negotiations among more than 50 countries, human rights advocacy groups, the diamond industry and nongovernment organizations. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme will help end the trade in conflict diamonds, which has been fueling conflicts in some African countries for many years, leading to human rights atrocities that are beyond anything we in America have ever experienced. I am pleased that we can help put an end to these atrocities with this legislation.

The next plenary session of the Kimberley Process is scheduled to convene in Johannesburg, South Africa, from April 28 to 30, 2003. The U.S. played a leadership role in crafting the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and it is critical that we implement the certification process before April 28 if we are to retain this leadership. We also need to do this to ensure that the flow of legitimate diamonds into and out of the United States will continue without interruption. Most important, we need to do everything we can to stop trade in conflict diamonds as soon as possible.

This is a trade issue, a consumer issue, and most of all, a human rights issue. Legitimate trade can elevate the standard of living for people all over. This bill sends a strong message that the benefits of trade in valuable natural resources like diamonds should accrue to the legitimate governments and their people in Africa.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of my staff whose hard work helped to get us to this point. First and foremost, my Finance Committee staff led by Kolan Davis, my Chief Trade Counsel Everett Eissenstat, along with Carrie Clark, Zach Paulsen and Nova Daly. And I would like to acknowledge Senator BAUCUS's staff Tim Punke and Shara Aranoff for their help in getting this

bill through the Finance Committee and to the Senate floor. I hope this bill will receive wide support.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate has taken up and will unanimously pass the Clean Diamonds Trade Act, H.R. 1584, the House companion to S. 760, which I have cosponsored. The bill implements U.S. participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, an international arrangement to respond to the scourge of conflict diamonds.

In war-torn areas of Africa, rebels and human rights abusers, with the complicity of some governments, have exploited the diamond trade, particularly alluvial diamond fields, to fund their guerrilla wars, to murder, rape, and mutilate innocent civilians, and kidnap children for their forces. Al-Qaida terrorists and members of Hezbollah have also traded in conflict diamonds.

While the conflict diamond trade comprises anywhere from an estimated 3 to 15 percent of the legitimate diamond trade, it threatened to damage an entire industry that is important to the economies of many countries, and critical to a number of developing countries in Africa.

Governments, the international diamond industry, and non-governmental and religious organizations worked hard to address this complex issue, while setting an impressive example of public-private cooperation. For the last several years, the Kimberley Process participants have been working to design a new regimen to govern the trade in rough diamonds.

I introduced several bills on this subject over the last several years, along with Senator MIKE DEWINE and Senator RUSS FEINGOLD, to reflect the consensus that had developed between the religious and human rights community and the diamond industry on the U.S. response to this issue. Senator JUDD GREGG, who had introduced his own amendments and legislation dealing with this issue in the past, joined in cosponsoring our bill, as did a bipartisan group of 11 additional Senators.

In the House of Representatives over the last several years, former Representative Tony Hall and Representative FRANK WOLF were leaders on this issue, as is Representative AMO HUGHTON, who took the lead in introducing the House version of the bill this year.

In the bills I had sponsored in the past, my aim had been to push for the strongest possible international agreement—showing leadership in the United States and strong support in Congress for a meaningful certification and monitoring agreement. Now that an international agreement has been reached, many of my concerns have been addressed.

We have learned about the horror that has resulted when illicit diamonds fueled conflicts in Africa. Rebels from the Revolutionary United Front, RUF, funded by illegal diamonds and supported by Liberia terrorized the people

of Sierra Leone—raping, murdering, and mutilating civilians, including children.

If the fragile peace in Sierra Leone is to be maintained, profits from that country's diamonds must not fall into the hands of such brutal rebels again. Anti-government rebels in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to fight and are also supported by the sale of illicit diamonds.

We have learned that members of the Al-Qaida network may have bought large quantities of these illegal conflict diamonds from rebels in Sierra Leone in advance of September 11, anticipating that the United States would seek to cut off its sources of funds. An article in the Washington Post by Douglas Farah, on November 2, 2001, outlined the Al-Qaida connection and showed that Al-Qaida terrorists on the FBI's "Most Wanted" list bought conflict diamonds at below-market prices and sold them in Europe.

We have learned that the Lebanese terrorist group, Hezbollah, has participated in the conflict diamond trade and that it has been a source of funding and a way to launder funds for drug dealers and other criminals.

It is now clear that ending the trade in conflict diamonds is not only the just, right, and moral thing to do, it is also in our immediate national interest in our fight against terror.

If the crisis in Afghanistan has taught us anything, it must be that we ignore failed, lawless states at our peril.

American consumers who purchase diamonds for some happy milestone in their lives, such as an engagement, wedding, or anniversary, must be assured that they are buying a diamond from a legitimate, legal, and responsible source.

The Kimberley system will allow American consumers to have some confidence that they are buying "clean" diamonds, and will also serve our local jewelers and diamond retailers. The jewelers in our local malls and downtown shops do not want to support rebels and terrorists in Africa any more than consumers do.

I heard from a jeweler in my hometown of Springfield, IL, Bruce Lauer, president of the Illinois Jewelers Association, who wrote:

The use of diamond profits to fund warfare and atrocities in parts of Africa is abhorrent to all of us. . . . As the owner of Stout & Lauer Jewelers in Springfield, I know firsthand the importance of diamonds to my customers. A diamond is a very special purchase symbolizing love, commitment and joy. It should not be tarnished with doubt. . . . We want to be able to assure our customers unequivocally that the diamonds in our stores come from legitimate sources.

There are not many issues that can bring together Senators and Congressmen across the political spectrum; that can bring together the human rights community and the diamond industry; and that can unite leaders of every religious denomination.

The horror of what has happened to the people of Sierra Leone and espe-

cially to its children has brought us together to fight this evil by cutting off the rebel's source of support—the illicit diamond trade. Now it brings us together to fight the terrorists who have murdered our own citizens, in our own country.

The world was shocked and horrified by the murder, mutilation, and terror imposed on the people of Sierra Leone by rebels funded with conflict diamonds. The moral outcry by religious and human rights groups galvanized governments and the diamond industry to address the problem. Now is the time to close the deal and to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

I want to say how pleased I am that the Senate came to a consensus on this bill. I am especially grateful to Senator GRASSLEY and his trade counsel, Everett Eissenstat, and to Senator BAUCUS and his trade counsel, Shara Aranoff, for their careful work in being sure that my concerns and those of other Senators and the Clean Diamonds Coalition were addressed in the bill.

I am pleased that my concerns were addressed about the possibility that the Kimberley system could be circumvented by cutting rough diamonds, by calling for a report that would flag such actions if it becomes a problem, so action can be taken.

It is very important that the United States move quickly to fulfill its promise to implement the Kimberley agreement, and this consensus bill will allow this country to do so in a timely way.

AMENDMENT NO. 529

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley substitute be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment (No. 529) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 1584), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

PROSECUTORIAL REMEDIES AND OTHER TOOLS TO END THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN TODAY (PROTECT) ACT OF 2003—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 151, the PROTECT Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 151), to prevent child abduction and the sexual exploitation of children, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the